

elections in response to what they view as sustained and systematic persecution at the hands of the current government.

All this begs the question why did we allow this to happen? While the answer to that question remains a mystery, the crisis currently facing Haiti as a result of the decision to remove President Aristide from office will continue without any prospect of peace until a legitimate government is established.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF EDNA
F. MEYERHOFER OF CHEEKTOWAGA,
WAGA, ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of a great Western New Yorker: Mrs. Edna F. Meyerhofer of Cheektowaga, NY. Sadly, Mrs. Meyerhofer passed away on February 24 at the age of 74.

Mrs. Meyerhofer was a loyal wife, mother and grandmother, and was a dedicated Roman Catholic, showing great commitment to her faith and to her community. At her church, North Cheektowaga's Infant of Prague, she was an active member of the Parent-Teacher Guild, the Bishops Committee, the Altar & Rosary Society, and Parish Life Committee. Mrs. Meyerhofer was also a Hospice volunteer, and served as a member of the Hanford Bay Association.

After working professionally as a secretary for Westinghouse Electric Corporation, like so many others of her generation, Mrs. Meyerhofer began work in the home, as a devoted mother of two daughters and three sons—a source of great pride for her and her husband George. Her two daughters, Mary Harris and Rose Tracy, and her three sons, George, Paul and Mark, are outstanding members of their own respective communities, and learned well at their parents' knees the importance of family, faith and community, as they seek to extend this family tradition to Mrs. Meyerhofer's 12 grandchildren.

While I regret not knowing Edna Meyerhofer well, I do know her son, Mark, very well. Mark serves honorably as Chief of Staff to New York State Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz, and is well known and universally respected in his own right for his community, governmental and political accomplishments in the Town of Cheektowaga and throughout Erie County. Again, these were lessons undoubtedly learned at the Meyerhofer dinner table: that to whom much is given, much is expected, and that there is an understood responsibility to contribute back to one's own community.

Mrs. Meyerhofer consistently helped her community and those in need. In addition to her family, many other Western New Yorkers will miss her generosity, compassion and loyalty to her community. I thank the Speaker and my colleagues in the House for this opportunity to pay tribute to her memory here today.

CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the United States maintains and has maintained for several decades extensive commercial and cultural relations with the people of Taiwan. In this context, I am concerned about China's proposed anti-secession law. I understand that the premise of this law is that China and Taiwan are now unified and that China has the right to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. A further concern is that this law provides justification for China to legally push for unification of Taiwan by force, which is the worst-case scenario.

Consideration of this proposal is coming at a time when both China and Taiwan have taken conciliatory steps toward each other, including the initiation of holiday charter flights that begin in late January 2005, which are the first nonstop commercial air traffic across the Taiwan Strait in 55 years, and both China and Taiwan have signaled they might be willing to restart talks relating to the status of Taiwan.

Understandably, the 23 million people of Taiwan are very upset over this proposed law, for they have lived under a full-fledged democracy and enjoyed the highest standards of freedom and human rights. In view of the importance of Taiwan to the United States, China and indeed, the entire international community, I urge Chinese leaders to exercise caution and wisdom and not adopt this confrontation and destabilizing approach to Taiwan.

We do not seek any military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait, now or ever. The government of Taiwan has signaled that it stands ready to discuss and negotiate any issue with China. Clearly negotiation is the most desirable approach, and I urge both China and Taiwan to continue progress in this direction.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRONX AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Bronx African-American History Project which is dedicated to finding, promoting and preserving the history of African Americans in the Bronx, New York.

Fordham University's Department of African American Studies and the Bronx County Historical Society have launched the African American History Project in order to respond to the growing demand for information about Blacks in the Bronx from schools, churches and community organizations. The goal of the project is to create and collect the resources necessary to tell the story of African Americans in the Bronx and to get that story out to the public through lectures, media appearances, books, articles, public exhibitions, and documentary films. This important project has been operating for over two years. During that period its research team—headed by Dr. Mark Naison, Dr. Peter Derrick, Brian Purnell, Patri-

cia Wright, Delores Munoz, and Colleen McCafferty—have accumulated more than 100 interviews and catalogued countless personal records and mementos for preservation and public education purposes.

The Bronx is home to the eighth largest concentration of African Americans in the country, but unfortunately not much has been written about this diverse population. As a result, events such as the migration of upwardly mobile black families from Harlem to the Bronx in the 1930's and 1940's; the development of the Bronx's eclectic musical culture fusing jazz, rhythm and blues, Latin Music and Calypso; the rise of Black political leadership in the Bronx or the migration of West Indians and West Africans to the Borough have been missing from textbooks and oral histories. Now this history will be available to the world thanks to the Bronx African-American History Project.

Mr. Speaker, Aristotle once stated: "If you would understand anything, observe its beginning and its development." As a result of the extraordinary efforts of Fordham University, the Bronx County Historical Society, and active citizens such as Leroy Archible, Harriet McFeeters, Nathan Dukes, James Pruitt, Robert Gumbs, and the late Arthur Crier Jr., the world will be able to observe the beginning and development of the African-American community in the Bronx and thus gain a deeper understanding of its rich and beautiful history. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to all who have been integral in the development of The Bronx African-American History Project.

REMARKS IN SUPPORT OF TAIWAN

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 7, 2005

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, recent reports suggest that the People's Republic of China may embark on a dangerous path that could destabilize the region. The PRC may be seeking passage of an "anti-secession" bill in a careless attempt to justify use of force against Taiwan. As everyone in this legislative body knows, Mr. Speaker, the PRC has never decried force as a means to take control of Taiwan, and this sort of provocative measure only serves to further corrode productive dialogue.

As the democratic leader in the global world, we cannot stand for unilateral action by the PRC against Taiwan. To echo the words of the Taiwan Relations Act, "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means" is "of grave concern to the United States." As two productive, industrialized nations charged with helping usher the world into the 21st century, it is imperative that the PRC and Taiwan work out their differences through peaceful dialogue.

Given the recent tragedies that crippled South East Asia, now is not the time to threaten stability across the Taiwan Strait. If the "anti-secession" bill were to become "law", the prosperity of 23 million people on Taiwan would be threatened. The Taiwanese live in a thriving, multi-party democracy. We cannot allow the light of Asian democracy to dim under the threat of military action. I urge my colleagues find their voices and oppose the passage of the anti-secession law.